

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending. Claim 19 has been cancelled, and claims 1, 7, 13 and 20 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-18 and 20 remain pending subsequent entry of the present amendment.

Prior Rejections

Applicant notes and appreciates withdrawal of the prior rejections.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections

In the present Office Action, claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by newly cited U.S. Patent No. 6,684,350 (hereinafter “Theodoras”). Applicant respectfully traverses at least some of the above rejection. For example, claim 6 recites features directed to a turn-around cycle. Applicant has carefully reviewed the portions of Theodoras cited as disclosing the recited features. However, there is no such disclosure included therein. In addition to the above, claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Theodoras, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,076,177 and U.S. Patent No. 6,480,979. Claims 19-20 are deemed allowable. While Applicant does not agree with all of the rejections, Applicant has amended each of the independent claims to recite the subject matter deemed allowable by the examiner.

Applicant believes all claims to be in condition for allowance. However, should the examiner believe otherwise, the below signed representative requests and would appreciate a telephone interview to facilitate a more speedy resolution. The representative may be reached at (512) 853-8866.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-11500/RDR.

Respectfully submitted,

/ Rory D. Rankin /

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